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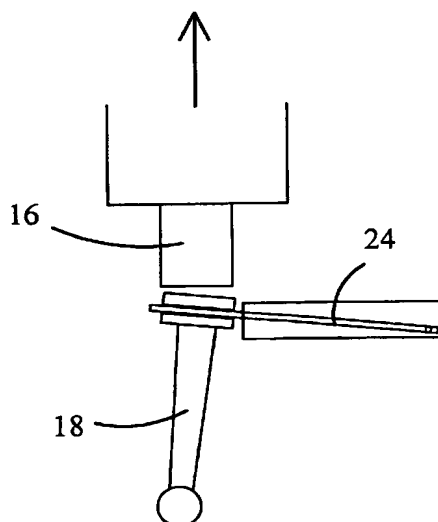
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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR CHANGING OPERATING MODULES ON A COORDINATE POSITIONING MACHINE



(57) Abstract: A storage port (20) for separating a magnetically coupled task module (18) from a modular probe (16) mounted on a machine comprises a housing (22) and arm (24) receivable by the task module (18). A mechanism is provided for separating the task module from the probe body using a mechanical advantage, such that physical movement of the machine actuates the mechanism thereby separating the task module (18) from the modular probe (16). The arm (24) may be rotatable about a pivot (26) such that on moving the probe upwards, the task module (18) is also pulled upwards, causing the arm (24) and hence the task module (18) to rotate about the pivot (26) and thus breaking contact between the task module (18) and the probe (16) with a tilting action. Damping means (38, 48, 60, 62) are provided to ensure smooth and controlled movement of the arm (24).

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